AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A gas oil fraction hydrotreatment process comprising:

~~characterized by using~~ providing as a feed oil a hydrorefined petroleum-based hydrocarbon oil with a sulfur content of 5-15 ppm by mass, a total aromatic content of 10-25 % by volume and a boiling point range of 150-380°C ~~as the feed oil~~; and

subjecting said feed oil to hydrotreatment in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst to obtain an ultralow sulfur and a low aromatic gas oil fraction having a sulfur content of not greater than 1 ppm by mass and a total aromatic content of not greater than 1 % by volume.

2. (Currently Amended) A gas oil fraction hydrotreatment process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein said feed oil has a monocyclic aromatic content of 9-18 % by volume and a bicyclic or greater aromatic content of 1-7 % by volume, and said ultralow sulfur and low aromatic gas oil fraction has a bicyclic or greater aromatic content of not greater than 0.2 % by volume.

3. (Currently Amended) A gas oil fraction hydrotreatment process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein reaction conditions for said hydrotreatment are preferably a reaction temperature of 170-320°C, a hydrogen partial

pressure of 2-10 MPa, a liquid hourly space velocity of 0.1-2 h^{-1} and a hydrogen/oil ratio of 100-800 NL/L.

4. (Currently Amended) A gas oil fraction hydrotreatment process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein said feed oil has a paraffin content of 30-60 % by volume and a naphthene content of 25-60 % by volume, ~~while~~ and

said ultralow sulfur and low aromatic gas oil fraction has a paraffin content of 30-60 % by volume and a naphthene content of 40-70 % by volume.

5. (Currently Amended) A gas oil fraction hydrotreatment process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein said hydrogenation catalyst ~~is one having~~ includes at least one ~~kind of~~ active metal from among Group 8 metals supported on a porous support.

6. (Currently Amended) A gas oil fraction hydrotreatment process according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein said porous support ~~is composed of~~ comprises alumina and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of titania, zirconia, boria, silica, phosphorus and zeolite.

7. (Currently Amended) A gas oil fraction hydrotreatment process according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein said active metal ~~is~~ comprises at least one ~~kind of~~ metal selected from the group consisting of Ru, Rd, Ir, Pd and Pt.

8. (Currently Amended) An ultralow sulfur and low aromatic gas oil fraction having a sulfur content of not greater than 1 ppm by mass and a total aromatic content of not greater than 1 % by volume, ~~characterized by being obtained by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 7~~ formed by a process comprising the steps of:

providing as a feed oil a hydrorefined petroleum-based hydrocarbon oil with a sulfur content of 5-15 ppm by mass, a total aromatic content of 10-25 % by volume and a boiling point range of 150-380°C; and

subjecting said feed oil to hydrotreatment in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst to obtain an ultralow sulfur and a low aromatic gas oil fraction having a sulfur content of not greater than 1 ppm by mass and a total aromatic content of not greater than 1 % by volume.

9. (Currently Amended) A gas oil composition ~~characterized by~~ comprising an ultralow sulfur and low aromatic gas oil fraction having a sulfur content of not greater than 1 ppm by mass and a total aromatic content of not greater than 1 % by volume, ~~and obtained by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 7 claim 1~~ formed by a process comprising the steps of:

providing as a feed oil a hydrorefined petroleum-based hydrocarbon oil with a sulfur content of 5-15 ppm by mass, a total aromatic content of 10-25 % by volume and a boiling point range of 150-380°C; and

subjecting said feed oil to hydrotreatment in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst to obtain an ultralow sulfur and a low aromatic gas oil fraction having a sulfur content of not greater than 1 ppm by mass and a total aromatic content of not greater than 1 % by volume.